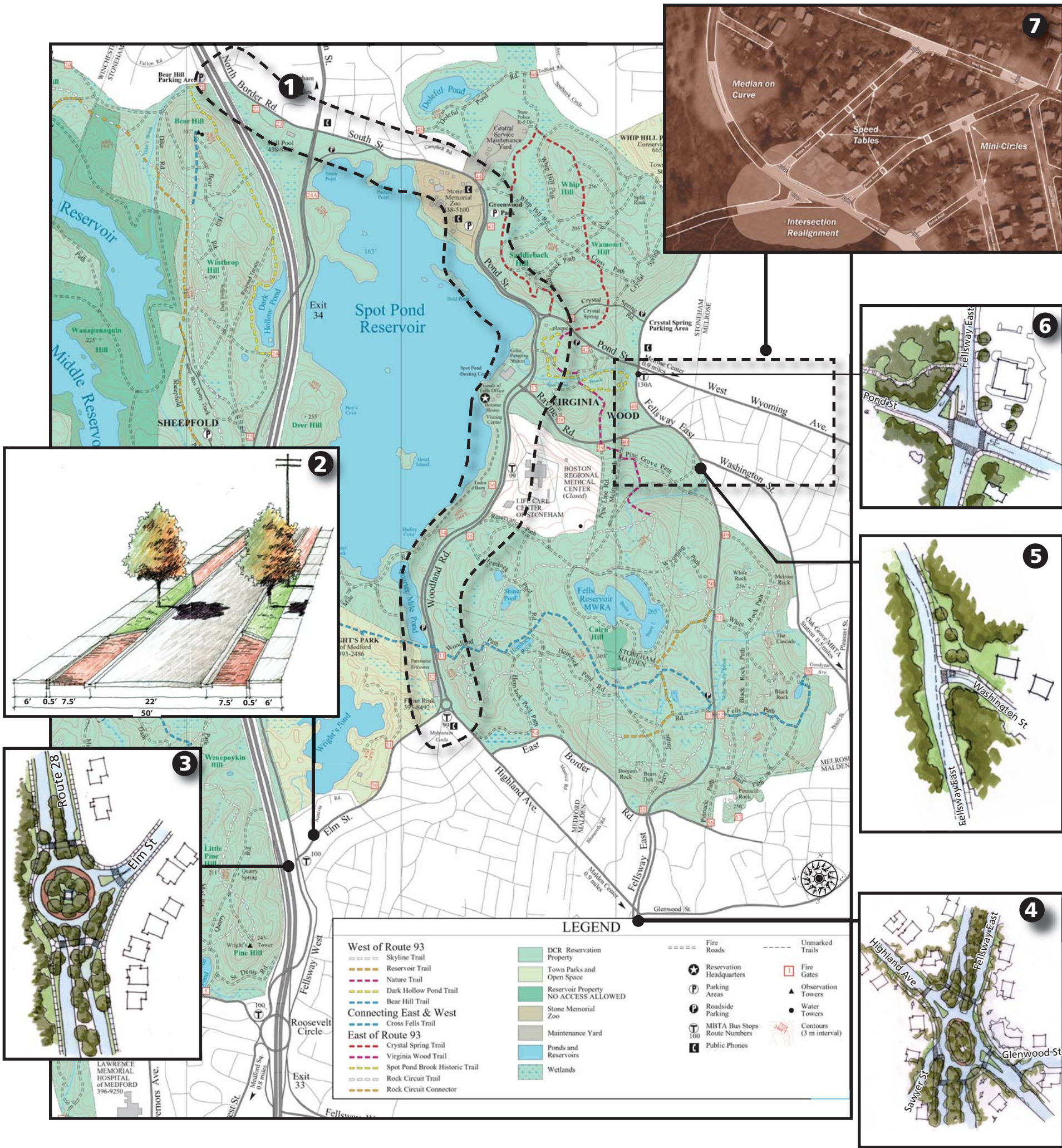


Why a Vision Plan for the Fells Parkways

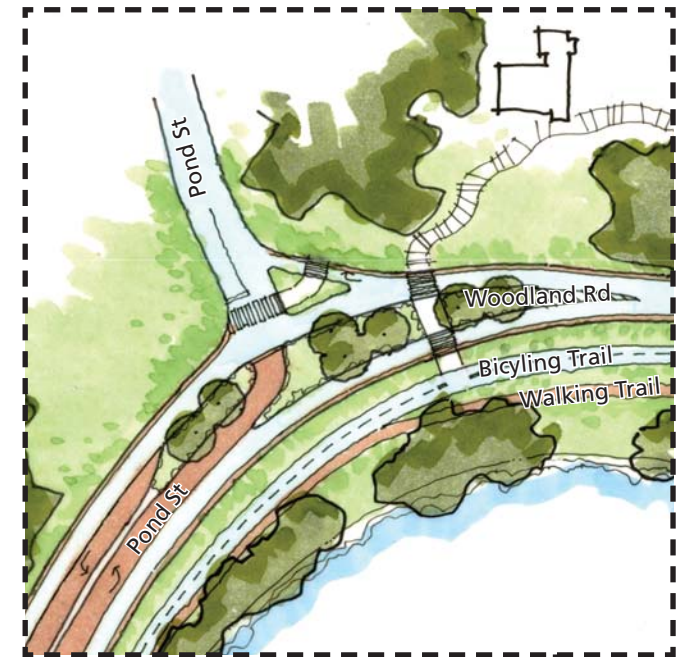
The Department of Conservation and Recreation's Vision Plan for the Middlesex Fell Parkways builds on the concept that "a parkway is not a road. It's a park with a road in it." The Vision Plan focuses on Woodland Road (and Pond Street), the central spine of the Middlesex Fells Reservation, and reinforces its character as an internal park road. The Plan illustrates a concept where Woodland Road provides increased recreational access to pedestrians and bicyclists, as well as continuing to accommodate motor vehicles, while enhancing the natural landscape of the Fells and respecting the historic intent of the Parkway system. With input from stakeholders, the Department of Conservation and Recreation developed this Parkway Vision Plan to serve as a framework for future policy and capital investment decisions.



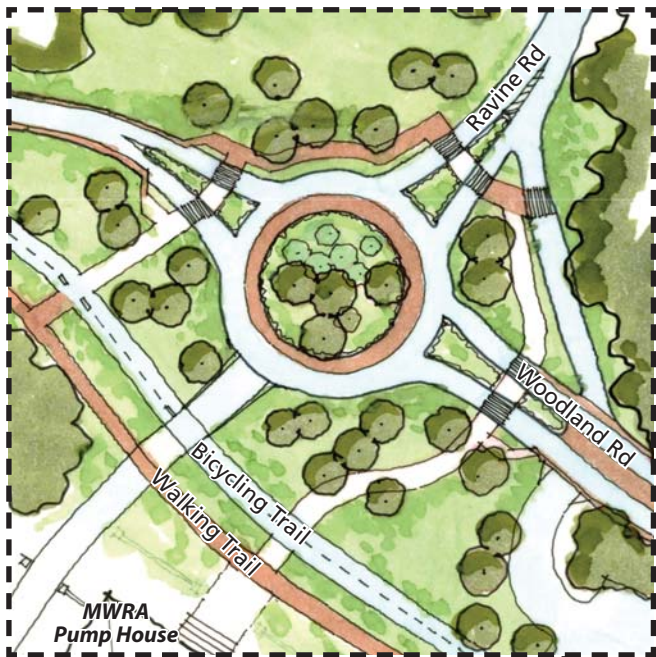
Proposed Changes

- 1 Woodland Road Traffic Calming Plan
- 2 Elm Street Cross Section Change
- 3 Elm Street and Route 28 Roundabout
- 4 Highland Avenue and Fellsway East Roundabout
- 5 Washington Street and Fellsway East Re-alignment
- 6 New Crosswalks and Re-alignment of Right-turn Channel at Pond Street and Fellsway East Intersection
- 7 Neighborhood Traffic Calming Plan

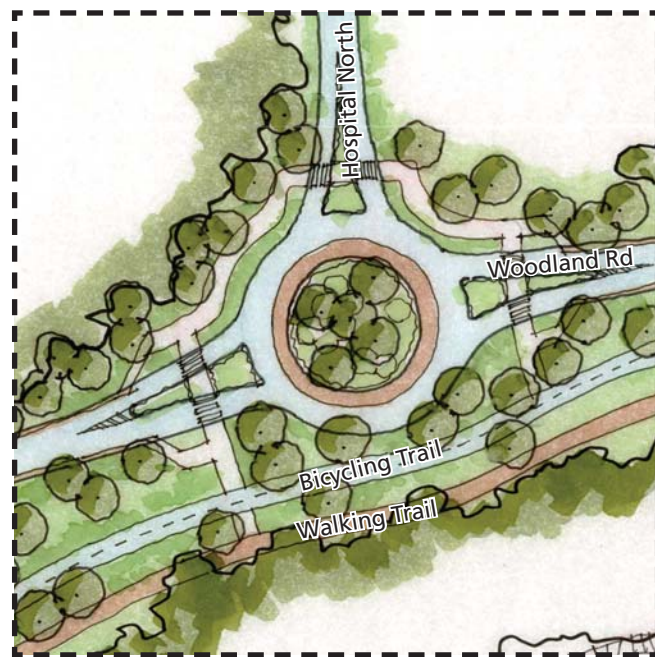
Woodland Road Traffic Calming Plan



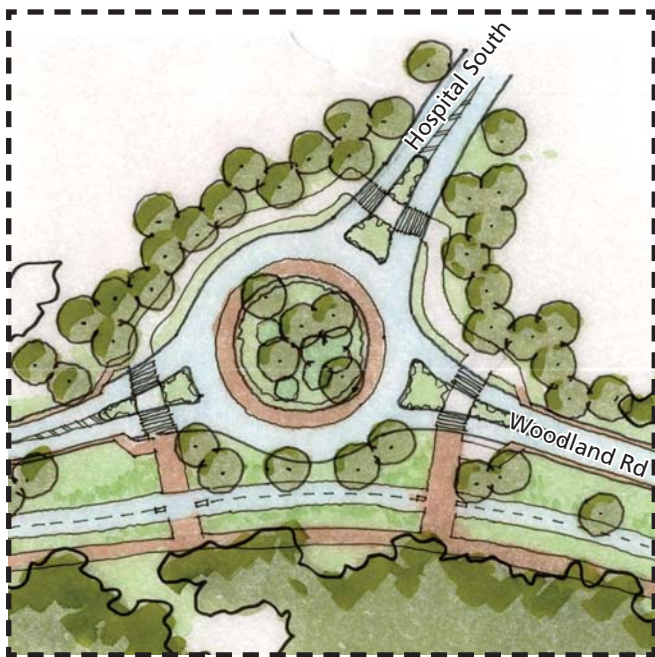
Spread out the intersection movements to reduce conflicts and increase safety.



A roundabout at the Ravine Road/ Woodland Road intersection functions as another landmark feature. In combination with other roundabouts, a series of traffic calming measures will regulate traffic speed and encourage safer driving behavior around this busy pedestrian-activity area.



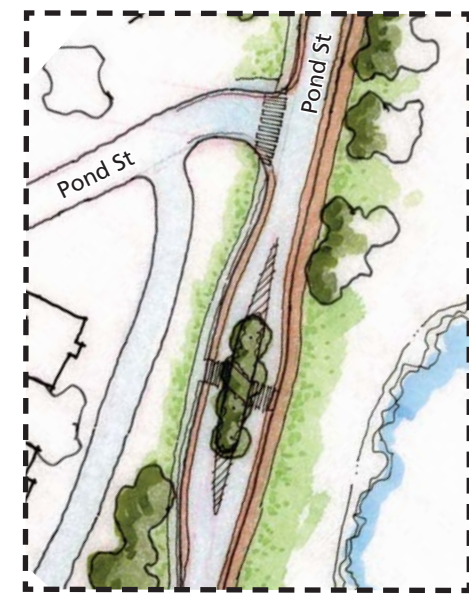
Roundabouts provide access into the former Boston Regional Medical Center while promoting appropriate Parkway driving behavior.



Each roundabout will have well-marked crosswalks with splitter islands that function as pedestrian refuges.



Molineau Roundabout
The existing Molineau Circle will be reconfigured to modern roundabout standards to influence entering traffic to slow down and yield to circulating traffic. A reduction in speed will enhance the ability of pedestrians and bicyclists to safely cross the streets when accessing area attractions. Molineau Roundabout will mark the southern gateway into the Fells.



Re-align Pond Street to provide better sight line at intersection while providing pedestrian crossing from the neighborhood to Spot Pond and reducing high speed cornering.

Park and Parkway Furnishings



The Vision Plan draws inspiration from the design details and character of the historic Parkway. New furnishings, signage, railings, etc. along the Parkway and trails should reflect the character and scale of historic furnishings used when the Parkways were originally designed.

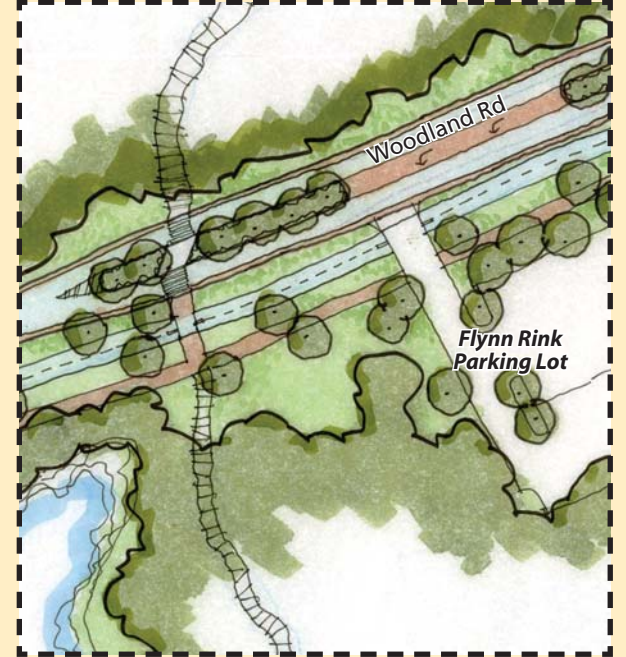


Park Area around the Botume House
The area around the Botume House has tremendous potential to become a focal point for the Reservation with the addition of more recreational and park amenities. The reconfiguration of Woodland Road offers an opportunity to introduce new parking spaces to serve all users and visitors of the Reservation.

DCR should work with the Massachusetts Water Resources authority to replace their chain link fence with a fence more in keeping with the historic and natural setting. The existing DCR storage structure should be relocated to a more appropriate location. The space between the historic pump house and the Botume House can be enhanced as a passive park space that the public can use to enjoy Spot Pond.

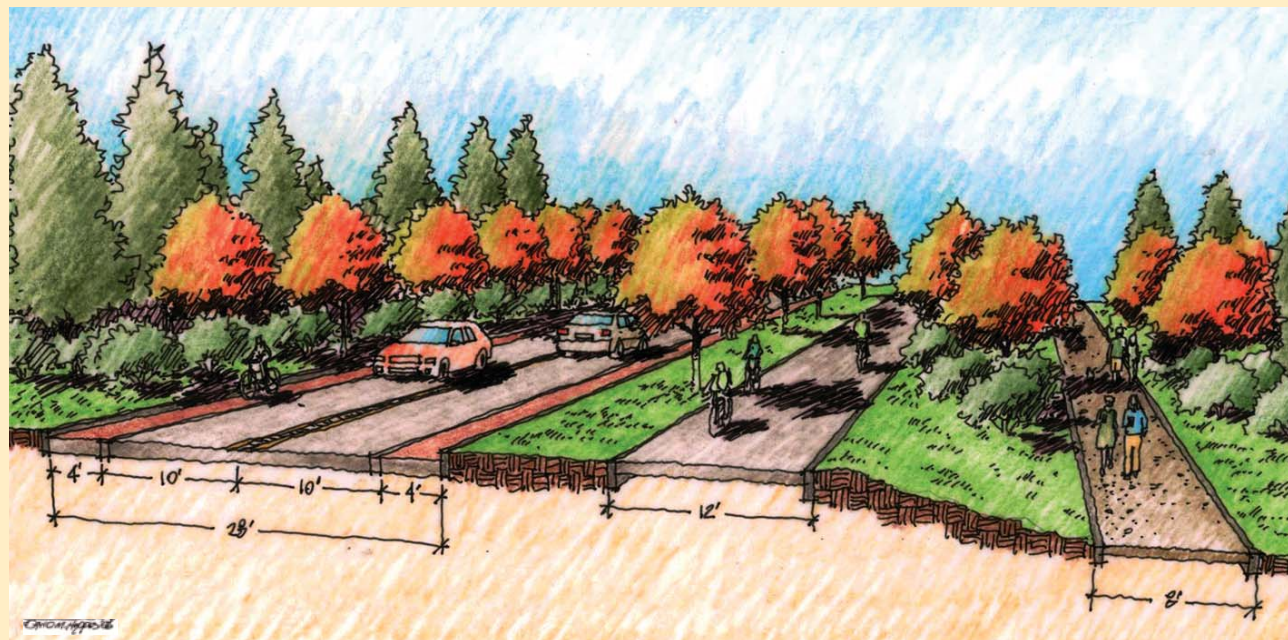


Pedestrian Crossing
A number of new pedestrian crossings are proposed throughout the Parkway to connect trail heads and other high-pedestrian activity areas. Pedestrian refuge medians with trees and plantings will serve as a traffic calming measures at each pedestrian crossing while adding to the Parkway aesthetic and interest.



Proposed Parkway Cross Section

The proposed cross section for Woodland Road between the Stone Memorial Zoo and the Molineau Circle will have two lanes of traffic and two lanes of bicycle-friendly shoulders utilizing the existing northbound side of the Parkway. The existing median and southbound side of the Parkway will be converted to a dedicated bicycle facility, a walking trail and additional park space.



The proposed trail system along the reclaimed portion of Woodland Road would offer increased pedestrian and bicycle access to Spot Pond and other park amenities. The new trails will be connected to the existing hiking trails of the Fells to form a comprehensive walking and bicycling system.